

**From:** Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US  
**Sent:** 2/12/2013 3:11:29 PM

**To:** "Mary Hanley" <Hanley.Mary@epamail.epa.gov>  
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"Catherine Libertz" <Libertz.Catherine@epamail.epa.gov>  
**Subject:** QFR - question 60a

Hi Mary -

I just left you a message, but wanted to follow up with this as well. These are our press releases from January 2012, when sampling was initiated, and July 2012, when sampling was completed. Hopefully the statements in bold are helpful. Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks!

Jennie

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<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8EB78248CE13D9DC8525798A0070F991>

EPA to Begin Sampling Water at Some Residences in Dimock, Pa.

Release Date: 01/19/2012

Contact Information: Terri White white.terri-a@epa.gov (215) 814-5567

PHILADELPHIA (Jan. 19, 2012) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it plans to perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns. EPA's decision to conduct sampling is based on EPA's review of data provided by residents, Cabot Oil and Gas, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

EPA is working diligently to understand the situation in Dimock and address residents concerns, said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. We believe that the information provided to us by the residents deserves further review, and conducting our own sampling will help us fill information gaps. **Our actions will be based on the science and the law and we will work to help get a more complete picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.**

The sampling will begin in a matter of days and the agency estimates that it will take at least three weeks to sample all the homes. All sampling is contingent on access granted to the property. EPA expects validated results from quality-tested lab to be available in about five weeks after samples are taken.

In addition, EPA is taking action to ensure delivery of temporary water supplies to four homes where data reviewed by EPA indicates that residents' well water contains levels of contaminants that pose a health concern. EPA will reevaluate this decision when it completes sampling of the wells at these four homes. Current information on other wells does not support the need for alternative water at this time. However, the information does support the need for further sampling.

Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and the Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that the development of this vital resource occurs safely and responsibly. At the direction of Congress, and separate from this limited sampling, EPA has begun a national study on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources.

For additional information regarding this site please visit the website at: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html>

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<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1A6E49D193E1007585257A46005B61AD>

EPA Completes Drinking Water Sampling in Dimock, Pa.

Release Date: 07/25/2012

Contact Information: Terri White white.terri-a@epa.gov (215) 814-5567

PHILADELPHIA (July 25, 2012) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it has completed its sampling of private drinking water wells in Dimock, Pa. Data previously supplied to the agency by residents, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot Oil and Gas Exploration had indicated the potential for elevated levels of water contaminants in wells, and following requests by residents EPA took steps to sample water in the area to ensure there were not elevated levels of contaminants. Based on the outcome of that sampling, EPA has determined that there are not levels of contaminants present that would require additional action by the Agency.

Our goal was to provide the Dimock community with complete and reliable information about the presence of contaminants in their drinking water and to determine whether further action was warranted to protect public health, said EPA Regional

Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. The sampling and an evaluation of the particular circumstances at each home did not indicate levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take further action. **Throughout EPA's work in Dimock, the Agency has used the best available scientific data to provide clarity to Dimock residents and address their concerns about the safety of their drinking water.**

EPA visited Dimock, Pa. in late 2011, surveyed residents regarding their private wells and reviewed hundreds of pages of drinking water data supplied to the agency by Dimock residents, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot. Because data for some homes showed elevated contaminant levels and several residents expressed concern about their drinking water, EPA determined that well sampling was necessary to gather additional data and evaluate whether residents had access to safe drinking water.

Between January and June 2012, EPA sampled private drinking water wells serving 64 homes, including two rounds of sampling at four wells where EPA was delivering temporary water supplies as a precautionary step in response to prior data indicating the well water contained levels of contaminants that pose a health concern. At one of those wells EPA did find an elevated level of manganese in untreated well water. The two residences serviced by the well each have water treatment systems that can reduce manganese to levels that do not present a health concern.

As a result of the two rounds of sampling at these four wells, EPA has determined that it is no longer necessary to provide residents with alternative water. EPA is working with residents on the schedule to disconnect the alternate water sources provided by EPA.

Overall during the sampling in Dimock, EPA found hazardous substances, specifically arsenic, barium or manganese, all of which are also naturally occurring substances, in well water at five homes at levels that could present a health concern. In all cases the residents have now or will have their own treatment systems that can reduce concentrations of those hazardous substances to acceptable levels at the tap. EPA has provided the residents with all of their sampling results and has no further plans to conduct additional drinking water sampling in Dimock.

For more information on the results of sampling, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html> .

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